

Notes on *Erebia occulta* (Lepidoptera: Satyridae)

Readers of this journal who do not follow the European literature should note that *Erebia phellea* Philip & Troubridge (Troubridge & Philip, 1983. J. Res. Lep. 21:107-146) is a junior synonym of *Erebia occulta* Roos & Kimmich (1983. Ent. Z., Frankf.a.M. 93:69-77). Careful comparison of Roos & Kimmich's figures of genitalia and facies for *E. occulta* (TL 150 km Dempster Highway, Yukon Territory, Canada) with Yukon Territory specimens from the type series of *E. phellea* indicates that the two taxa are conspecific, and the publication date for *E. occulta* precedes that for *E. phellea* by four months. The TL for *E. phellea* is km 66-68 Council Road, Seward Peninsula, Alaska. This separation of type localities makes the specific epithet *phellea* available at the subspecies level if populations of *E. occulta* should later be differentiated as geographic races. The synonymy stands as follows:

Erebia occulta Roos & Kimmich, 1983.

Erebia phellea Philip & Troubridge, 1983. SYN. NOV.

The following citation does not form part of the synonymy, since no name was given, but it should be noted that:

Erebia new species B Ferris et al., (1983. Can. Ent. 115:823-840) is also a reference to *Erebia occulta*.

The Siberian range of *E. occulta* has been extended from that given in Troubridge & Philip (1983), where the only Siberian locality for the species was the Aborigin station of the Institute of Biological Problems of the North (Magadan), which lies on the eastern slope of Pik Vlastnyi, Bolshoy Annachag range, upper Kolyma valley, Magadanskaya Oblast'. In 1983 K. W. Philip and A. C. Jones found *E. occulta* (31 males, 2 females: 17-22 June) at the Rangifer field station of the Institute of Biological Problems of the North, which is situated in the upper Yama River valley, 26.5 km SSE of Atka (200 km southeast of the Aborigin station). The station, in the floodplain of a tributary of the Yama, is in larch taiga at 2500 feet (760 m) elevation, but most specimens of *E. occulta* were obtained on gravel scree from 2700-3400 feet (820-1040 m). A few specimens were captured on the valley floor, always on or near gravel or rocks. In addition, Philip was given a batch of material collected by I. Chereshev on a low rocky hill at the mouth of the Cheutakan River, just east of Kresta Bay on the south coast of Chukotka, which contained a small series of *E. occulta* (8 males, 1 female: 7-9 July). Figure 1 illustrates the presently known range of *E. occulta* in the Magadanskaya Oblast', NE Siberia, U.S.S.R.

The Rangifer station and the Cheutakan River are separated by over 1600 km, in addition to having different biotopes: taiga at Rangifer and tundra at the Cheutakan River. It is not surprising that the facies of *E. occulta* from these two localities are somewhat different. The Rangifer specimens are larger (mean male FW length 22.4 ± 0.8 mm, $N = 20$), and the overall facies are close to material from the Aborigin station (see Troubridge & Philip, 1983). The Rangifer and Aborigin stations are both in the Okhotsk/Kolyma Uplands, and faunal similarity would be expected. Specimens from the Cheutakan River are appreciably smaller (mean male FW length 19.9 ± 0.9 mm, $N = 8$), and have facies intermediate between western Alaskan specimens and Okhotsk/Kolyma Uplands specimens. The black pupils of the DFW submarginal ocelli are larger than in Alaskan specimens (up to

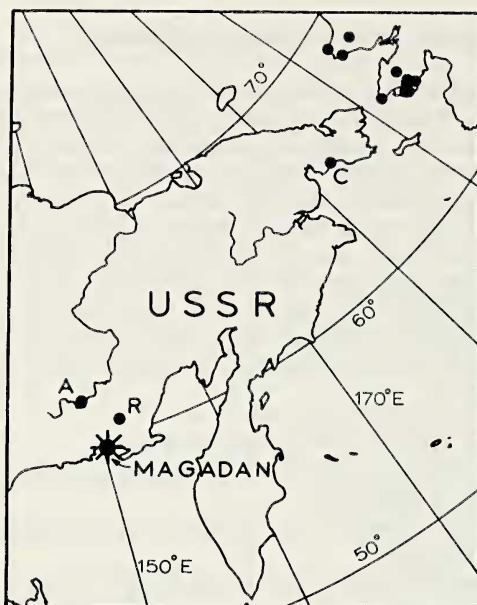


Fig. 1. Range of *Erebia occulta* in the Magadanskaya Oblast'. **A:** Aborigen field station, Bolshoy Annachag Range, upper Kolyma valley. **R:** Rangifer field station, upper Yama River. **C:** mouth of Cheutakan River, Chukotka. Distribution in western Alaska (unlabelled dots) is shown as well.

1.0 mm wide, as in some Okhotsk/Kolyma Uplands specimens), but the VHW pattern has a distinct mesial band, and a noticeable speckling of lighter scales, which are both characteristic of western Alaskan specimens.

Alpine tundra areas near Markovo, on the Anadyr' River in Chukotka, were collected in July 1983, but no *E. occulta* were found. We thus have no information about this species in the regions between far eastern Chukotka and the Okhotsk/Kolyma Uplands, although *E. occulta* presumably flies in other parts of Chukotka.

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